

REMARKS

In the Office Action of November 30, 2004, claims 2, 3, 10, and 13-65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,211,406 to Katzensteiner ("Katz"). Claims 4-9, 11 and 12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening dependent claims. Specifically, the Office Action stated, "[f]avorable action will be given to the claims if amended so that the base claim includes the limitations of claim 1 and all intervening claims."

As a general note, it appears from the preceding quoted language and from the language of the anticipation rejection that there may still be some confusion as to which claims are currently pending in the present application. The language of the current anticipation rejection clearly appears to be directed to claim 1. However, as discussed in Applicant's response to the Office Action of July 6, 2004, claim 1 was canceled in the timely filed preliminary amendment and replaced with independent claim 2 and claims 3-65, which depend from claim 2. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the language of the current anticipation rejection should have been directed to currently pending claims 2-65, not canceled claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that Katz fails to disclose each and every limitation of Applicant's independent claim 2. For example, the claim recites,

a sleeve adapted to be disposed generally coaxially around the
shaft and comprising
 a flange sleeve portion extending generally radially
 outward from the sleeve,
 an outward sleeve portion generally parallel to the
 longitudinal axis of the shaft and extending generally
 axially outward from the flange sleeve portion, and
 an inward sleeve portion generally parallel to the
 longitudinal axis of the shaft and extending generally
 axially inward from the flange sleeve portion.

Applicant's Claim 2. Clearly, Katz does not disclose such an arrangement. For at least this reason, Katz fails to anticipate each and every element of Applicant's independent claim 2 and its dependent claims 3-65. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection based on Katz is respectfully requested.

The Applicant believes no fees or petitions are due with this filing. However, should any such fees or petitions be required, please consider this a request therefor and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 as necessary.

If the Examiner should require any additional information or amendment, please contact the undersigned attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,



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